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AN ART MUSEUM'S INFLUENCE IN WAR TIMES

We are living in a time of stress, when the physical and temporal things are forced upon us relentlessly hour by hour, and the things of beauty and of the spirit seem to many to be of but comparatively little importance. Evidence of this feeling comes in the form of an occasional letter of resignation from membership, "on account of the more important demands." These explanations are easily understood in view of the unending appeals for help from every corner of the tortured world. These war relief appeals should not, however, blind us to the real fact that we as a people are in the crucible to-day, and require more than ever a growing consciousness of our deep need of the inspiration of art and of the other aspects of the higher life.

In these days of turmoil we must prepare for the days of reconstruction which will inevitably follow. A reorganization of the world must come, and we should stand prepared to formulate the ideals and principles which shall guide that reorganization.

Our art museums, in so far as they are maintained as institutions "by and for the people," must inevitably become more and more life-giving oases in a desert of war talk and war fear and war hope—restful places in which peace and inspiration may be found, and where that high courage which is bred of noble ideals, may be strengthened and prepared for whatever sacrifice may be necessary to establish forever the true spirit of democracy among all men.

Our art museums cannot be so maintained and do their ennobling work unless they are supported and upheld by the people. This Museum needs more members, rather than fewer, in these troublous times. It needs the income from memberships. It needs still more the incentive of knowing that the people of Cleveland will not permit the price of war to be so great as to include interference with the usefulness of the new Art Museum which, in less than a year of life, has given to all the people a new vision and a new inspiration.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Museum will be held on the first anniversary of the public opening of the building, Thursday, June 7, at 8.15 p.m. Reports of the year's work will be submitted by the President and other officers. It is hoped to have a full attendance, the Museum being open for members and their families during the evening.